

Guiding Questions: Set E

Speaking Points: South Africa

I will address the first three questions.

Question 1

What more could be done to support sub-regional and regional mechanisms that address through-life management of conventional ammunition, as appropriate?

The Organisation of African Unity, predecessor of the African Union, adopted the Bamako Declaration on small arms and light weapons in December 2000. This political instrument sets out several political commitments on implementing small arms and light weapons management in order to combat their illicit proliferation, including that of their ammunition.

In August 2001, the Southern African Development Community adopted the Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

In both instances, our current consideration of the issue of ammunition in the OEWG presents an opportunity that when the issue of small arms and light weapons is considered, there exists an opportunity to further address the through-life management of conventional ammunition in our regional and sub-regional contexts.

Question 2

What more could be done to encourage relevant industry, civil society, and academia to support safe, secure, and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management, as appropriate?

Government outreach efforts and engagement with civil society, relevant industry and academia greatly assist in awareness-raising on the issue of through-life conventional ammunition management.

On the issue of conventional arms, South Africa has always valued the complementary role that civil society plays in bringing greater focus on the illicit trade in these weapons, including on conventional ammunition.

International assistance in support of the activities of the NGO community on ammunition in developing countries is key to the implementation of their programmes.

Question 3

How could the OEWG further consider gender perspectives and implications on the through-life management of conventional ammunition?

South Africa's view is that it is imperative that gender mainstreaming should be prioritised. We were satisfied that the GGE recognised the importance of this trend globally in paragraph 79 of its report, through the adoption by the UN General Assembly, of a number of instruments.

My delegation is, therefore, entirely supportive of the initiative of Panama and a group of countries for the full, equal and meaningful participation of both women and men in ammunition management policy and practice. In this context, we join others in support of Panama's proposed amendment to the Draft Elements Paper.

Thank you.